



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

EAST ALABAMA

BAPTIST CONVENTION

HELD WITH THE

Union Baptist Church,

AT

CENTRAL INSTITUTE,

MAY 20-23, 1859.

TUSKEGEE, ALA. :

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST.

1859.

MEMORANDUM

TO THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

FROM THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

PROCEEDINGS.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE, 20TH MAY, 1859, {
11 O'CLOCK, A. M. }

BY REQUEST, Elder H. E. Taliaferro preached the Introductory Sermon.

After a short recess, the delegates assembled, and the Convention was called to order by the President.

On motion, W. M. Lindsey, S. G. Jenkins, and J. R. Steely were appointed a committee on credentials, who, after retiring a short time, reported that the following persons were entitled to seats in the Convention :

From Central Association—J. R. Steely, I. W. Suttle, P. Stout, Wm. Reaves, Jos. Bankston, B. Skipper, J. D. Williams, G. E. Brewer.

Ten Islands Association—D. Nunnelly.

Coosa River Association—J. A. Collins, G. Hill, B. M. Fluker, J. J. Bullington, C. R. Cross, S. G. Jenkins, J. J. D. Renfro.

Unity Association—A. C. Baker, N. Bozeman, A. Andrews, J. H. Ray.

Tuskaloosa Association—Letter—no delegates.

CHURCHES.

Mt. Zion, Talladega—Geo. Hill, B. M. Fluker, A. J. Hickman, J. J. Bullington.

Cane Creek—D. Nunnelly.

Bethlehem—Letter, but no delegate.

Friendship, (Calhoun)—E. D. Lewis.

Rockford—I. W. Suttle, G. E. Brewer.

Union—P. Stout, A. W. Deloach, P. Carter, N. P. Turner, A. Castleberry.

Tallassehatchie—Letter—no delegate.

Salem--W. C. Mynatt.

Mt. Zion, (Calhoun)—S. J. T. Whatley.

Lebanon—J. L. M. Curry.

Columbiana—Letter—no delegate.

Wetumpka—J. D. Williams.

Harmony—Letter—no delegate.

Concord—J. Kincaid, J. Sandlin, Jones, Stephens, W. J. Cline.

Coosa Valley—J. A. Collins.

Ft. Williams—Daniel Wallace.

Life Members—R. Wood, J. M. Russell, S. G. Jenkins, W. C. Mynatt, W. M. Lindsey, J. W. Jeter, W. Reeves, W. C. Barnes, H. E. Taliaferro, I. W. Suttle, Geo. Hill, J. A. Pylant, A. E. Vandivere, J. J. D. Renfroe, W. W. Cross, P. McKinney, Hon. W. W. Mason.

Annual Members—B. H. Timmerman, N. D. Renfroe, Y. D. Harrington, W. Wilkes, O. W. Shearer, T. J. Russell, Wm. D. Harrington, Wm. Autry, H. Long, W. A. Florence, P. S. Montgomery.

The President then requested Elder R. Holman and Prof. P. Carter to act as tellers to receive the votes of the delegates for President, two Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

After balloting, the tellers announced the following as the result of the vote:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| For President, | W. W. MASON; |
| 1st Vice “ | S. G. JENKINS; |
| 2d “ “ | P. STOUT; |
| Treasurer, | C. R. CROSS; |
| Secretary, | J. J. BULLINGTON; |
| Assistant, | W. M. LINDSEY. |

The President, after appropriate remarks, appointed the following Committees:

On Business—Stout, Jenkins, and Barnes.

On Divine Service—Callaway, Barnes, Hill, Suttle, and Baker,

Correspondence was then called for, when the following was received :

From Arbacoochee Association—Elder Barrow.

From Liberty Association—W. D. Harrington and Wm. Autry.

Tennessee and North Alabama General Association—N. D. Renfroe.

Domestic Mission Board S. Bap. Convention—R. Holman, Corresponding Secretary.

Alabama Baptist Bible and Colporteur Society—Elder R. Keith, Financial Secretary.

An opportunity having been offered, brother Keith addressed the Convention on the subject of his agency.

The Preaching Committee reported that Elder W. Wilkes preach to-night, followed by brother N. D. Renfroe. Prayer meeting to-morrow at 8 A. M. Convention at 9 A. M. Preaching at 11 A. M., by Elder Mynatt.

On motion, a committee consisting of J. A. Collins, W. C. Mynatt, J. L. M. Curry, and P. Stout, was appointed to devise the best plan for circulating the Bible among the destitute in East Alabama.

Adjourned to 9 A. M. to-morrow.

SATURDAY—9 A. M.—MAY 21.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder J. D. Williams.

Elder S. G. Jenkins in the chair—the President being confined to his room by sickness.

On motion, invited all who had arrived during the recess, to report themselves to Secretary, and state the capacity in which they wish to be regarded by the Convention.

On motion, agreed to hear the Report of the Committee on Business, who suggested the following order, which is observed in these proceedings:

I. Hear from the committee to propose amendments to the Constitution.

On motion, that committee was allowed until Monday, 9 A. M. to make their report.

On motion, brethren Jeter and Curry were added to the committee. Brother Curry, chairman, suspended the order of business and made it the special order for 2 o'clock this evening, to hear the Report of the Committee on Missions; and requested brother Holman to address the Convention at that time on the subject of Missions.

Excused the President from appointing committees for the present.

On motion, the Board of Managers were allowed further time to make their report.

II. Heard the Report of the Committee on Baptist Sabbath School Books.

After reading the report, and pending the motion to adopt, brethren Curry and Holman addressed the Convention on the importance of Sabbath School instruction.

The report was unanimously adopted. (Appendix A.)

On motion, brother Lide, Treasurer of Howard College, was invited to a seat in the Convention.

The Report on Missions was read, and after addresses by brethren Holman and Curry, was adopted. (Appendix B.)

Pending the adoption of the above report, \$108 25 was raised for Indian Missions.

Received and adopted the Report of the Board of Managers and of the Financial Secretary. (Appendix C.)

On motion, brethren Lindsey, Mynatt, and Collins were appointed a committee to nominate a Board of Managers for the ensuing year.

On motion, a special committee, consisting of brethren Renfroe, Stout, and Wilkes, were appointed to examine the Circular Letter written for the Coosa River Association, by Elder J. A. Collins, and report to this session in regard to publishing the same in a permanent form.

The following committees were appointed to report at the next session:

Foreign Missions—J. J. D. Renfroe, W. C. Mynatt, S. J. T. Whatley.

Domestic Missions—J. L. M. Curry, C. R. Cross, T. J. Russell.

Indian Missions--H. E. Taliaferro, J. D. Letcher, W. C. Barnes.

Bible Cause--A. E. Vandivere, J. J. Bullington, Daniel Wallace.

Book, Tract and Colportage--J. A. Collins, Geo. Hill, J. W. Jeter.

Sabbath Schools--Platt Stout, J. M. Russell, Wm. Lindsey.

Education--P. Carter, I. W. Suttle, Jos. Bankston.

Finance--J. A. Pylant, Geo. Brewer, P. McKinney.

The Committee on Divine Service reported as follows :

Elder Bullington, Bible sermon to-night.

Prayer meeting, 8½ o'clock A. M., to-morrow.

Elder J. J. D. Renfroe, 10 o'clock.

Elder S. G. Jenkins, Missionary sermon, 11 o'clock.

Missionary Mass Meeting, 2 o'clock P. M., with addresses by brethren Holman, Collins, and Curry.

Elder J. M. Russell to preach to the blacks at 11 A. M.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock Monday morning.

Prayer by brother Wilkes.

On Sabbath, the services were conducted according to the appointment of the committee, to large and deeply attentive audiences.

MONDAY--8 A. M.

Prayer by Elder Vandivere.

On motion, suspended the order of business to allow Elder Jenkins to offer the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take the necessary steps to have this Convention incorporated--the committee to consist of S. G. Jenkins, Platt Stout, and J. M. Russell.

On motion, Elder Jas. Barrow was allowed to express his gratitude for benefactions received from this body.

An opportunity having been given, \$20 50 were contributed to brother Barrow.

Suspended the order of business to elect brethren to the following positions :

To preach the Introductory Sermon—J. M. Russell ; P. Stout, alternate.

To preach the Bible Sermon—J. A. Collins ; W. Wilkes, alternate.

To preach the Missionary Sermon—J. J. D. Renfroe ; S. Henderson, alternate.

Received and adopted the Report of the Committee on the the Constitution. (See Constitution in the Appendix, as amended.)

Suspended the order of business and read and adopted the Report of the Special Committee on the Circular Letter of Coosa River Association. (Appendix D.)

Postponed the appointment of Correspondence for the present.

Voted to hold the next session of this body with the church at Columbiana, Shelby county, commencing on Friday before the third Sabbath in July, 1860.

Changed the time of our Annual Meeting to the Friday before the third Sabbath in July.

On motion, the following resolution was passed :

Resolved, That we recommend to all the churches within our bounds, to have a sermon preached on the importance of keeping up regular prayer and family religion in their houses.

On motion, appointed brethren Taliaferro, Stout, Renfroe, Curry and Mynatt, a Committee on Correspondence with the Tennessee and North Alabama General Association, who were allowed to retire and prepare a report on the subject.

Appointed Correspondence as follows :

State Convention—Stout, Curry, Mynatt, Renfroe, Taliaferro, Montgomery, Wallis, and Williams.

Cherokee, Ga.—Jenkins, Renfroe, Williams, Vandivere, Mason, J. M. Russell.

Agreed to open Correspondence with the Georgia Baptist Convention, and appointed brethren J. M. Russell, Bullington, Taliaferro, and S. Henderson.

Carey Association—Jenkins, J. M. Russell, T. J. Russell, and Whatley.

Arbacoochie Association—J. M. Russell, Mynatt, J. J. D. Renfroe, Thackerson, S. K. Borders, and Wm. Johnson.

Elder J. D. Williams read the 12th chapter of Romans, as expressive of the spirit and genius of Christianity.

The Committee on Correspondence made the following report; which was adopted:

Your Committee on Correspondence with the Tennessee and North Alabama General Association, recommend the continuance of the correspondence, as formerly, with the express understanding that this body express no opinion in regard to the Nashville difficulties.

Appointed the following correspondents to the Tennessee and N. Alabama General Association: Elders J. M. Russell, S. G. Jenkins, A. E. Vandivere, and bro. S. J. T. Whatley.

Ordered the Secretary to have the Constitution, as amended, and the Rules of Order, printed with the proceedings.

On motion, the correspondents to our State Convention were authorized to act as delegates to the State Bible Society.

The Committee to nominate a Board of Managers, reported the following; which was adopted:

J. M. Crook, Wm. Johnson, J. U. Whitesides, G. C. Whatley, J. J. D. Renfroe, S. C. Williams, S. K. Borders, Lewis Pyles, and W. C. Mynatt.

Brother Mynatt offered the following resolution; which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary have 1,500 copies of these minutes printed, and that he receive thirty dollars for his services; and that he be allowed to draw upon the Treasurer for the same.

On motion of brother J. J. D. Renfroe, ten dollars were appropriated to the Assistant Secretary for his services.

Resolved, That the thanks of the members of this Convention are cordially tendered to the brethren and sisters, and citizens of this neighborhood, for their kindness and hospitality.

The committee to devise a plan for the circulation of the Bible in East Aladama, made their report; which was adopted, (Appendix E.)

Appointed the following correspondents to Tuskaloosa Association : Collins, Montgomery, Waldrop, Baker, and Lide.

Resolved, That any member of this Convention, present at any Convention or religious body, with which we correspond, may be regarded as a delegate from this Convention.

Resolved, That this Convention adopt brother P. S. Montgomery as a beneficiary, and that our Financial Secretary be authorized to solicit funds to sustain him.

Resolved, That this Convention make an effort to sustain one more missionary among the Indians.

On motion, the Convention ratified the appointment by the Board of Managers, of Elder Jesse A. Collins, Financial Secretary of this Convention.

Received and adopted the Report of the Treasurer. (Appendix F.)

On motion, adjourned to 1 o'clock P. M.

Sermon by Elder Vandivere, of Jacksonville.

1 O'CLOCK, P. M.

On motion, brethren Pylant, Lindsey, and Barnes were appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the Financial Secretary, and give him an order upon the Treasurer for the amount due him.

Resolved, That we recommend the Home and Foreign Journal, and Commission, missionary papers, to the churches in the bounds of this Convention.

Read and adopted the Report of the Committee on Finance. (Appendix G.)

On motion, suspended the regular order of business, and appointed the following correspondents to the Unity Association : Bankston, Steely, and Collins.

After singing, and prayer, by Elder Bankston, the Convention adjourned to meet with the church at Columbiana, Shelby County, on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in July, 1860.

W. W. MASON, Pres't,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| J. J. BULLINGTON, Sec'y, | } | { | W. M. LINDSEY, Ass't. |
| Syllacauga, Ala. | | | Central Institute, Ala. |

APPENDIX.

(APPENDIX A.)

Report of the Committee on Sabbath School Books.

The Committee appointed at the last session, "to examine and report upon Baptist Sabbath School Books", have cause to regret that other engagements, and difficulty of consultation, have prevented that diligent and laborious consideration which the magnitude and delicacy of the subject required. It is deemed hardly necessary to spend time in discussing the national importance of Sunday Schools. Suggestive statistics might be given, showing what has been accomplished by this wonderful agency in the bounds of Protestantism.

The reports of agents and missionaries of the "American Sunday School Union", show that for the last ten years, there have been organized, under the active exertions of that Society, nearly 18,000 new schools, where none previously existed, containing about 680,000 children, taught by more than 113,060 teachers. Besides schools previously in existence, there are many thousands which have been organized under individual or denominational influence, not embraced in this estimate. It is not in the comprehension of human wisdom to conceive, or in the power of human language to utter, what is wrought upon the intellects and hearts of pupils and teachers, upon parental training, upon the churches, upon society, upon the world, by this powerful instrumentality.

When the eminent Frenchman, now lately deceased, De Tocqueville, was traveling in America, he asked to see a Sabbath School. He was astonished at seeing a Bible in the hands of almost every child. "Is this common?" said he. "What a mighty influence it must have upon the nation."

Sunday Schools were originally established to supply instruction to those who were deprived of it by parental poverty, neglect, sinfulness or indifference. They have passed beyond that point and are found to be valuable auxiliaries to family training and church instruction, and ministerial education, besides teaching many youthful and more mature transgressors the error of their ways, and operating as a healthful corrective and conservative influence. The advantages of Sabbath School instruction are so simply and lucidly stated in the excellent little tract of the venerable Mallary, issued by the Southern Baptist Publication Society, that it would be supererogation to recapitulate the benefits.

These schools are not to be regarded as substitutes for the family or the church. These are God's institutions; His ordinations; and nothing is to supersede or lessen the obligations of Christian parents, or intercept between them and their offspring, or interfere with the ministrations of the pastor, or prejudice his proper influence. The school, however, is a sphere for the intelligent action of the private membership, and serves to eradicate that pestilential principle, so long practically avowed, that upon the ministry alone rests the responsibility of teaching and preaching Christ. Every man should teach his brother, and every man should teach his neighbor, and every disciple should teach the perishing and ignorant, saying, Know the Lord. The church has infinite capacities, never yet fully drawn out. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, it possesses capabilities for the evangelization of the uttermost parts of the earth. Its resources and means are not yet in full development. Its talent is not wholly in profitable employ.

There is "ample scope and verge enough" for a million-fold more than has been accomplished. Simple and sublime, it is the agency of the Omniscient one, and we stagger in our faith when we doubt its power to accomplish that whereunto it was ordained. The Sunday School is one of its means. Rightly conducted, from the mouths of babes and sucklings, strength will be ordained, family imperfections and short-comings will be remedied, troops of heedless ones will be brought into contact with the church. Timothy's, knowing the Scriptures from childhood, will be multiplied, pastoral labors will be lightened, efficiency increased, and the soil made rich for the implantation of the seeds of gospel truth.

In this connection, it is a pertinent inquiry, What is the duty of Baptists, and, in the great Christian harvest-field, what sheafs are they binding? From our denial of infant baptism, the reproach has not been infrequent, that we forbid children to come unto Christ, and cruelly leave them outside of the fold of the Good Shepherd, exposed to the ravages of wild beasts. We are charged with leaving them unprovided for; as denying covenanted mercies—discriminating prayers constantly go up for the baptized children of the church—and sometimes it is said that there is greater probability of the conversion of a baptized than an unbaptized child, and that baptism makes the child a member of Christ, the child of God, an inheritor of the kingdom of Heaven. While we cannot, without the authority of the Great Head of the Church, admit to its privileges and communion those whom He has excluded, we can teach diligently, at home and in the school, unto children, the commands of the Lord, and can talk of them when we sit in our houses; when we walk by the way; when we lie down, and when we rise up. While the antecedents to baptism are all spiritual, and fleshly relations entitle no persons to spiritual privileges and blessings, we can prayerfully and hopefully obey the injunction to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. While no religious duty can be performed by proxy, and baptism is a personal obligation and privilege, as well as repentance, faith, prayer, beneficence, and the Lord's supper, still we can, conscientiously and believingly, train our children in the way they should go. While every one who believes on the name of Christ must be born, "not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God," and salvation is not a hereditament, corporal or incorporeal, the result of natural birth or parentage, but all, whether the children of rich or poor, of pious or wicked, of Saul or David, of Solomon or Lazarus, must approach in person the mercy-seat; still, by line upon line, and precept upon precept, we are encouraged to teach all children to remember their Creator in the days of their youth. The Sabbath School, which has been so undeniably blessed in arousing the churches to more vigorous action, in calling out latent resources, and in the conversion of so many youth, comes in as a Heaven-acknowledged agency to help us in this inestimable privilege of teaching ours and others' children "to keep the way of the Lord; to do justice and judgment."

In these schools the Bible should be the substratum of all instruction. It is all God's book—no one part of it more than another. Conveying His will, it contains what is sufficient to make the perfect man in Christ Jesus. It embodies all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. What of them are essential and what non-essential, has not been revealed to finite beings. What can be safely taught, and what left untaught; what impressed and what ignored; what admitted to form a basis of union, and what rejected to prevent discord and separation, your committee have no

data for ascertaining. The Word commanded the eleven immediate disciples to teach all nations "to observe *all things whatsoever* I have commanded." We have learned of no subsequent authoritative dispensation, releasing the present disciples from the obligatoriness of this command. That book teaches the existence and attributes of God, the Divinity, humanity and mediation of Christ, the fall and recovery of man, the necessity of faith and obedience, a future judgment, &c.; and it teaches also a converted church-membership; that baptism is immersion and must precede communion, and faith must precede both; the parity of the ministry; the equality and priesthood of all Christians; the personal accountability for the performance of every Christian duty; the independence and sovereignty of particular churches. One class of these truths is recognized and taught in many Sabbath School Books: the other class is ignored, passed over, rejected. By studying such books alone, and failing to read the Bible, the scholar would never find out that the latter class of truths was found in the Bible; and it is just this latter class of truths which denominationalizes us and makes us Baptists. They are peculiar to us. Other denominations may pass them by, leave them untouched, and have nearly all their doctrines taught. Baptists are called on to make the sacrifice and consent to the smothering up of Bible truths, to the dishonoring of God and the prejudice of their growth and usefulness. These ought ye to have done, and not to have left the other undone. We rejoice that there are so many important truths held in common by the Christian brotherhood, and would not magnify trivial differences into inseparable barriers. We acknowledge also the danger of sinking our character as Christians into the more distinctive and peculiar character of Baptists. We would deplore the degeneracy of zeal for God's truth into zeal for denominational superiority and influence. We would not assimilate Christian activity and sectarian propagandism, lest the church-member should be two-fold more the child of hell than before, and we acknowledge the antagonism between glorifying God and feeding church pride; but as the Bible, and the whole Bible, is our creed, and the only rule of faith and practice, we cannot, dare not, withhold any of it from the people. Our peculiar tenets, drawn from the Bible, bind our hearts and consciences. With reverence and gratitude, and adoring submission, we claim them as His truths; and our allegiance would be treason, were we to disown or hide them. While "we would crucify our prejudices against other evangelical denominations, we must adhere to our principles, derived from our own honest reading of the Word of God."

Your committee adduce, as a corollary from the preceding observations, that in every school and with every pupil who can read, the Bible should be made a constant and familiar text-book and the ultimate and conclusive standard to solve all doubts and silence all disputations. A real, and not a simulated or counterfeit Christian literature, has been of wonderful utility, and we would not depreciate its importance or censure its study; but the endless multiplication of what are called "religious publications," much of which is pernicious or nonsensical, has somewhat depraved the public taste and lessened the reading of, and familiarity with, the Sacred Scriptures. Uneasy consciences are too often satisfied, or a felt duty partially performed by the substitution of the reading of such works for the reading of the Bible. We fear that a theoretical acquaintance with systems of theology and thorough mastery of controversial dialectics, will not compensate for that familiar acquaintance which, forty years ago, so many unlearned saints possessed with the language, the minute details, the history, the biography,

the nomenclature, the *personnel* of the Bible. We only plead against an improper neglect of God's Word, and the even possible substitution of any human composition for its all-sufficiency and completeness.

What "Baptist Sabbath School Books", after the Bible, are best fitted for general use, and best bring out Bible truths, in their totality, and best teach our obligations as Southern Christians, your Committee have not had the time or means to "examine," nor have they the ability to determine. Such works as Stow's, and Porter's, and Keach's, and Fish's, and Banvard's, and Broadus', and Dayton's, and Chambliss', and Winkler's, and the New England Sabbath School Question Books, are variously adapted to different wants and different capacities. If a selection by this Convention be desirable, (and we doubt it,) another committee of competent persons might be chosen, deliberately and prayerfully, and intelligently, to execute the task of selecting from existing publications. If this be done, another committee might appropriately be raised, to whom would be entrusted the work of drawing out a class of *subjects*, on which books for Southern youth, of both races, are needed. These matters are referred, however, to the Convention.

(APPENDIX B.)

Report on Missions.

John Forbisher, the late great navigator and explorer of the Arctic regions, regretted that he did not live in the age of Columbus, Cabot, and Vespuccius that he might have shared their fame in the vast discoveries of that stirring era. For a man whose ideas of fame consisted in the discovery of continents and islands, this wish is not surprising, for an impassable barrier is now set to distinction in that direction. But how one-ideaed must a man be to see but one road to world-wide renown, and despairingly acknowledge that road blocked up. The statistics which follow will suggest a more excellent way for the exercise of the physical and intellectual energies of men, which would secure a more certain and lasting fame :

"STATISTICS OF POPULATION AND RELIGION.—The directors of the statistical bureau of Berlin furnish the following curious statement : 'The population of the whole earth is estimated to be 1,288,000,000, namely: Europe, 272,000,000; Asia, 755,000,000; Africa, 200,000,000; America, 59,000,000; and Australia, 2,000,000. The population of Europe is thus sub-divided : Russia contains 62,000,000; the Austrian States, 36,398,620; France, 36,039,964; Great Britain and Ireland, 27,488,853; Prussia, 17,089,407; Turkey, 18,740,000; Spain, 15,518,000; the two Sicilies, 8,616,922; Sweden and Norway, 5,072,820; Sardinia, 4,976,034; Belgium, 4,607,066; Bavaria, 4,547,239; the Netherlands, 3,487,617; Portugal, 3,471,199; the Papal States, 3,100,000; Switzerland, 2,494,500; Denmark, 2,468,648. In Asia, the Chinese Empire contains 400,000,000; the East Indies, 171,000,000; the Indian Archipelago, 80,000,000; Japan, 35,000,000; Hindostan and Asiatic Turkey, each 15,000,000. In America the United States are computed to contain 23,191,876, (now 30,000,000;) Brazil 7,677,800; Mexico, 7,661,520. In the several nations of the earth there are 335,000,000 of Christians, (of whom 170,000,000 are Papists, 89,000,000 Protestants, and 76,000,000 followers of the Greek Church.) The number of Jews amounts to 5,000,000; of these 2,890,750 are in Europe, namely, 1,250,000 in European Russia, 853,304 in Austria, 234,248 in Prussia; 192,176 in other parts

of Germany, 62,470 in the Netherlands, 33,953 in Italy, 73,995 in France, 86,000 in Great Britain, and 70,000 in Turkey. The followers of various Asiatic religions are estimated at 600,000,000, Mahomedans at 160,000,000, and "heathens" (the Gentiles proper) at 20,000,000.'—*Bulletin*.

Navigators discovered much of the territory inhabited by these deathless souls, most of them without God and without hope in the world; but what did they do for their salvation? Columbus, Cabot, Vespuccius, Drake, Hudson, and others, live in history as the discoverers of vast theatres upon which immortal souls live and act, but they never taught them that great doctrine, "How a man can be just with God." Great is their reward among men; but a greater reward by Heaven and Earth awaits a Cary, Thomas, Marshman, Ward, Judson, Rice, Boardman, Vinton, Kincaid, Bowen, and other worthies, who have taught these actors upon the theatre of life, the way to God. When continents and islands have been consumed by fire from God, and all the records of earthly fame have shared the same fate, the labors of these Baptist worthies, recorded on high, will "outshine the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

But look at the statistics and see what a vast amount of soul labor is yet to be done. But little has been done compared with the herculean task before us. According to the above figures, not more than one-fourth of the world is even nominally Christian; the greatest portion of that one-fourth are Roman Catholics and Greek Christians; only 89,000,000 Protestants, and most of them bearing the name merely. What a picture! What a field of labor—what a harvest—for a handful of spiritual Christians, for the exercise of their faith and energies! "Who is sufficient for these things?" "What are these among so many?" With our small numerical forces to subdue to the obedience of faith these empires of darkness, strongly fortified as they are, would be a thing incredible, had not God promised it. Any thing that God has said, can, will, and must be done; and it is wicked not to believe it, and cowardly not to attempt it.

Here follows the statistics of the forces of all denominations now in the field, and a brief account of their success:

"WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT?—It is nearly a half a century since the commencement of the modern missionary effort. And now there are in the world about two thousand missionaries; seven thousand five hundred assistants; four thousand churches; two hundred and fifty thousand converts; three thousand missionary schools; two hundred and fifty thousand children and adults belonging to them; two hundred dialects into which the Bible is translated; thirty-two millions of Bibles scattered over the earth in languages spoken by six hundred millions."

This is gratifying and encouraging. The conversion of one soul fills heaven with joy; and the salvation of one soul is worth infinitely more than all the expenditure in the Missionary enterprise up to date. But, thank God! thousands have been converted to Christ, and those preliminary labors, under the blessing of God, will soon increase at such a ratio that the world will be converted, according to the Covenant of Redemption made with the Son. Your committee have no doubts nor fears upon this momentous subject; for what God has promised they believe.

The Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention are prosperous.—Forced to it, we separated from our Northern brethren, in 1845, locating our Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, and the Domestic Mission Board at Marion. A Report made by one of the Secretaries of the last named Boards, M. T. Sumner, at the late Georgia Baptist Convention, shows the following facts and figures:

DOMESTIC AND INDIAN MISSION BOARD.

Rev. M. T. Sumner, Financial Secretary of the Domestic and Indian Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that, during the past year, ending April 1st, there had been contributed to Domestic Missions \$21,610.73, and to Indian Missions \$17,223.54; add to this \$4,821.81 balance in the Domestic Treasury at the commencement of the year, and \$4,042.48 balance in the Indian Treasury, and we have \$47,698.67, the amount of funds at the disposal of the Board for Mission purposes.

Of this amount, Georgia Baptists contributed \$3,906.68 for Domestic Missions and \$4,527.59 for Indian Missions, making a total of \$8,435.27.

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized in the city of Augusta, Ga., in 1845. Since that period there has been contributed for Domestic Missions whose Board is in Marion, Ala., the sum of \$204,715.30, and for Indian Missions since 1855, the time of the transfer of this Mission from the Louisville Society, \$61,641.74, making a total of \$266,357.13. Of this amount the Baptists of Georgia have contributed the sum of \$55,048.15.

The whole denomination co-operated with the American Baptist Home Mission Society from its organization in 1832 till the division between the Baptists North and South in May 1845. The thirteen States and the District of Columbia then contributed to that Board. The sum total contributed by these States for Domestic Missions during the above specific period, \$38,656.40. Since the organization of the Southern Baptist Convention, these States have contributed \$204,715.39 for Domestic Missions, and \$61,641.74 for Indian Missions.

It may be gratifying to see the advancement of the States. We give three examples. The contributions of Virginia, from 1832 to 1845 \$9,182.56—ditto from 1845 to 1859, \$40,474.71. From Georgia from 1832 to 1845 \$9,529.33; from 1845 to 1859, \$42,461.09. From Alabama from 1832 to 1845, \$493.56; from 1845 to 1859, \$44,269.58.

We give the per centage of expenditures of the Board since April 1st, 1846:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----------|--------------|----|-----------|
| 1846 to 1847 | 22 | per cent. | 1852 to 1853 | 22 | per cent. |
| 1847 to 1848 | 25 | " " | 1853 to 1854 | 20 | " " |
| 1848 to 1849 | 22 | " " | 1854 to 1855 | 20 | " " |
| 1849 to 1850 | 24 | " " | 1855 to 1856 | 18 | " " |
| 1850 to 1851 | 17 | " " | 1856 to 1857 | 12 | " " |
| 1851 to 1852 | 26 | " " | 1857 to 1858 | 13 | " " |
| | | | 1858 to 1859 | 12 | " " |

LABOR PERFORMED DURING THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1.

One hundred and four missionaries have been employed in the Domestic field, and 35 in the Indian Territory. They labored for a time equal to 3,577 weeks; supplied 644 churches and stations; preached 12765 sermons; traveled 90,757 miles; made 10,959 family visits; baptized 2,027 persons; constituted 31 churches; commenced the building of 31 meeting houses, and finished 20; distributed thousands of religious tracts, Bibles and Testaments; organized Sabbath schools, and performed much other valuable service not embraced in this estimate. For all this we offer thanks to the Great Head of the Churches."

This Report, so well condensed and exhibiting such blessed results, needs no comment. Let all thank God, and take courage.

Here follows a synopsis of the fourteenth annual report of the Board of Foreign Missions read before the recent Biennial Convention at Richmond:

"FOREIGN MISSIONS.—The fourteenth annual report of the Board of Foreign Missions was read.

The Treasurer's report, for the year ending April 1st, 1858, exhibits cash receipts amounting to \$34,302.55, and a balance in the Treasury of \$3,882.26. This was an increase upon the largest amount reported as having been received during the previous year, (1857) of \$2,370.26. From the 1st of April, 1858, to the 1st of April, 1859, there has been paid into the Treasury \$39,824.38, being an increase of \$5,521 83 on the receipts of the previous year; and together with the increase of that year, making an aggregate increase for the present Conventional period of two years, over that terminating in April, 1857, of \$15,903.92. The chief cause of the increase in the receipts of the Board is a growing interest in the work.

The Treasurer reports a balance in his hands of \$8,799.95. This is the result partly of increased contributions, and partly of the fact that the sickness and return of missionaries have lessened the expenditures which would otherwise have been required abroad. Let none, however, conclude, on account of this large balance, that less will be needed for the ensuing year than heretofore, and for this reason diminish their contributions.

The report, which is very long, embodies much information in the shape of letters from Missionaries abroad. Announcements of new appointments, &c., were given in the report presented to the Association.

A large portion of the report is devoted to the consideration of new fields of labor, and under this head the Board recommend to the Convention the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That this Board feel the duty of taking no steps backward in the work of evangelizing the world; but while convinced of the importance of sustaining vigorously all the existing missions, are desirous of extending their labors as early as practicable, to other fields.

2. *Resolved*, That among the fields yet unoccupied by us, Brazil and Japan seem to present special claims to regard as necessitous and promising.

3. *Resolved*, That the Secretaries be instructed to endeavor, by correspondence and publications, to interest the minds of the brethren in these fields, and to inquire after suitable persons, who may be disposed, in reliance on God's guidance and strength, to go thither and labor.

The Board distinctly call the attention of the Convention to the necessity for increasing the number of missionaries. In each of the missions an increase of laborers is imperatively demanded. The following is a portion of the report:

"Since the last Convention, four male and four female missionaries have been sent forth to preach Christ to the heathen. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, not less probably than 300 has been baptized; in Yeruba, about 9; in China some 25."

We can see but one discouraging feature in this Report: *the lack of men to labor in the Foreign field*. It is a sad commentary on the Christian consecration of this age, that the Board can not get men to enter the "fields, white unto the harvest." The laborious Board is attentive and faithful to her trust; has money on hand to sustain Missionaries, but they do not come at her call. The Board must not be blamed; facts and figures exonerate her. The humiliating confession must be made: the want of consecration of soul, body and spirit to Christ is the thing that retards the Missionary enterprise.

Upon the whole, the friends of Missions have cause for gratitude to God—much to cheer them. Our Boards are out of debt, have funds on hand for Missions, and are ready to feed and clothe faithful laborers if they can be found.

And now what is needed? The Isaiah Spirit, "Here am I, send me."—Love for souls; zeal for the glory of God; holy consecration to Christ. Money cannot secure these. It is the business of the Boards to feed and clothe the laborer (and this they will do) the Isaiah Spirit, the holy consecration to Christ, is the work of the Holy Spirit. We, therefore, recommend this Convention, and all who may read this Report, to pray earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit to wake up the slumbering energies of the Churches of Christ to the great work of evangelizing the world.—The Divine Spirit can alone multiply the men and the means for this great work. His agency must not be ignored, as humiliating failure will be the consequence. If the Spirit is sought he will come, money will flow into the Lord's treasury, and warm-hearted men will be ready to respond to all calls, "Send me."

H. E. TALIAFERRO, Cha'n.

(APPENDIX C.)

Report of Board of Managers of East Alabama Baptist Convention.

The Board in submitting the second annual Report, feel that the trust committed to their care by the Convention, of managing the plans and policy of an organization in its infancy, is one *both* of difficulty and responsibility.

To be convinced that there is a great work to be done, we have but to look to the number, *the growing number* of immortal beings in the world, perishing for want of the bread of life. After a lapse of over eighteen hundred years since the command was given by the ascending Lord to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," from eight to ten hundred millions—at least eight-tenths of the entire population of the earth are without a pure gospel, either written or preached. China with its five or six hundred millions—Africa with its hundred million, have no Bible, no God,—Europe with its teeming, active millions, although nominally Christian, is cursed with its Koran, with its traditions, with its Bible mutilated or muzzled, or buried in the dead languages so that its simple truths designed to be read and understood by all men, even the common people, must pass through the lips of a corrupt priesthood, with an exception here and there, and thus lose much of its essential force. Nor must we omit to notice the darkness which prevails in South America, and the large number of persons in our favored land who, from carelessness or poverty, are destitute of a copy of the Holy Scriptures. Every effort to penetrate this darkness brings out startling and almost incredible facts as to the number of families, even in Alabama and other States, in the Great West, who have neither a Bible nor regular preaching. Some five or six county-seats in East Alabama have no Baptist church nor the regular ministration of the Word.

"That we possess *men* and *means*, and that it is our duty to make a prompt and efficient use of them is so clear that we need not stop to argue the proposition. Let the ministerial talent of East Alabama be cut loose from secular pursuits and be brought to the highest standard of mental, spiritual training, and consecration. Let the material and religious resources of the Baptist membership of East Alabama be developed and combined. Let Scriptural precepts and primitive examples be brought in force, and much

would be done in the great effort to supply the perishing millions of earth with the light of life, and crown the Redeemer with glories.

2. But the difficulty consists in bringing about that harmony in counsel and energy in action essential in an undertaking of such vast magnitude. Good men may differ as to the best mode of doing what all agree ought to be done. They may not agree as to the best missionary policy, or as to the fields to be occupied, or the men to cultivate them, or the best way of raising means to carry on the work. Baptists recognize no bonds but those of a common faith, no laws but those of one Lord; hence the only means by which we may expect to attain to that harmonious action which is so indispensable, is for each one for himself to earnestly and prayerfully apply these laws to his own conscience, and free from selfishness, and regardless of the sacrifices which may be involved, to do what these laws teach. This will bring about a harmony in action which will secure success. In this way our fathers have preserved the unity of the faith, and we cannot disregard their examples with impunity.

3. The interests committed to your Board is also one of fearful and delicate responsibility. There is nothing, perhaps, about which men are more sensitive than their monetary affairs. The love of money inspires us with a sort of parental care for it, after we have cast it into the treasury of the Lord. Our prayers may be contemned, misused; our counsels rejected, but our gifts must not be misapplied, and it is not assumed that this is wrong, but this extreme case frequently leads to an ungenerous criticism upon the uses which Boards, in their best judgments, make of the means placed under their control. It is much easier to make a wise than a satisfactory use of these contributions, so that Boards have not only to meet the just expectation of their brethren, but the unreasonable complaints of the captious fault-finder. Then there is so much of discretion and judgment, and labor, and faith, and patience necessary to meet the responsibilities of our station in harmonizing so many discordant elements, in combining so many divided energies, that we feel almost to claim at the hands of our brethren a sympathy deep and strong, an ardent supplication at the throne of grace for our good—and every thing more than blind-blame or unreasonable censure.

4. The Board more than all, feel the awful fearfulness of touching the ark of the gospel covenant with unhallowed hands. No plan, however wisely projected, or skillfully managed, no influences, however well combined, no means, however abundant, can succeed without the divine blessings—nor can any man, or class of men expect the blessings of God who do not habitually cultivate and eminently possess those graces so clearly taught by Christ and so harmoniously combined in the missionary labors and plans of the primitive Christians. Missions are strictly the work of faith, the labor of love and the patience of hope. Your Board, therefore, feel the need of all the wisdom and grace, and faith and patience which is attainable in this life to manage a work involving the confidence and the means of the Convention and the glory of the everblessed Lord to whom they must give an account, and the salvation of so many immortal souls—and we earnestly ask our brethren to unite their prayers with ours, that God will direct us in wisdom and prosper the labors of our hands.

5. The Board presented to the Convention at its last annual session a Report of the appointment of seven home missionaries and their labors up to the Convention in May, 1858. This Report, therefore, embraces the Reports of these seven missionaries to the close of their commissions, the first

of October last ; and also, our appointments for the present year. A. B. Smith continued to labor in Cherokee Association. He reports during the four months, traveled seven hundred and fifty miles, labored one hundred and thirty-one days, preached one hundred and fifty-seven sermons and addresses, baptized (by Jno. B. Appleton,) thirty-one persons, visited and prayed with two hundred and sixty-four families, sold eighteen Bibles, gave away forty-five Bibles ; families with Baptist books one hundred and forty; persons converted in connection with his labors, sixty. Hezekiah Moore for Canaan Association four months. He reports twelve hundred and sixty-seven miles traveled; rode one hundred and twenty days; preached eighty-eight sermons; visited two hundred and seventy-seven families; baptized thirty persons; distributed fifteen hundred and four pages of tracts; aided in constituting one church. J. H. Lowery preached in the corners of Jefferson and Tuscaloosa and Bibb counties. He reports traveled one thousand and eighty-two miles; labored one hundred and fifteen days; preached one hundred and seven sermons; baptized forty-three persons; visited two hundred and fifty-six families; sold three Bibles ; gave away two Bibles ; organized two churches; witnessed fifty-five conversions. Richard Wood appointed for Shelby Association and adjoining country, reports traveled eleven hundred and eighty-one miles; labored one hundred and twenty-three days; preached one hundred and ten sermons; baptized three persons. Thos. P. Guinn in the Hillabee country, in Randolph, Tallapoosa and Talladega counties, traveled one thousand and one miles; labored ninety days; preached eighty-five sermons and sixteen addresses; visited one hundred and sixty-six families; baptized twenty-three persons; received nine by letter; constituted one church; distributed seven Bibles, and sold two, do.; professions forty-five in connection with his labors. Wm. C. Myratt for Ten Islands' Association, reports traveled seven hundred and seventy miles; labored one hundred and forty days; preached seventy-five sermons; baptized nineteen in connection with his labors; ninety persons converted. Richard H. Thackerson in the eastern part of Calhoun county. He traveled nine hundred and fifty miles ; labored ninety-three days ; preached one hundred and fifteen sermons; baptized sixty-six persons; ordained two ministers and three deacons; constituted one church. Added to these the reports up to May, 1858, we have an aggregate of labors and results for that year, traveled eighty-two hundred and fifty-five miles; labored nine hundred and fifty-six days; preached eight hundred and thirty-two sermons; baptized two hundred and fifteen persons; visited fifteen hundred and sixty-three families; constituted four churches; ordained two ministers and three deacons. Our missionaries have not been as particular as is desired in reporting the number of conversions in connection with their labors, but it is supposed from four to five hundred persons were brought to light ; some of them have distributed Bibles to the amount of from one to two hundred, besides supplying large family Bibles at about cost and carriage. The Board cheerfully acknowledge the services gratuitously rendered by several of our missionaries after the expiration of their term of service, in visiting Associations and urging the claims of this work upon the attention of these bodies. Bro. W. C. Mynatt was especially authorised to aid the Financial Secretary in visiting the Associations in the North East of our territory while he should attend those in the South East part. The results of these labors will appear in the report of the Financial Secretary.

6. Jesse A. Collins was appointed Financial Secretary at the called session in 1857. He has been actively engaged in the services of your

Convention. We refer you to his Report for information, which we append as part of this report. The Board re-appointed him on the 3d Nov. 1858, and he is now prosecuting his labors, the results of which will appear in his second semi-annual report herewith submitted.

7. At a meeting of the Board in March, the Board reappointed R. H. Thackerson for Tallasahatchee Association for six months, at the rates of four hundred dollars per annum: A. B. Smith for Cherokee, Wm. McCain for the North part of Ten Islands, including St. Clair county; G. A. Morring for Jackson and Marshall counties. A. E. Vandervere to Centre court-house in Cherokee county, all at the same rates. All these brethren are actively prosecuting their labors with encouraging prospects of success. Bro. Morring declined, and at a subsequent meeting. Bro. J. A. Hill was appointed to Jasper, the court-house of Walker county; and also to the surrounding country; and authorized Jesse A. Collins, the Fin. Sec., to correspond with a view of establishing a Mission at Centerville and other stations in Bibb county further, to procure a suitable man to supply, as far as practicable, the destitution in Randolph, Tallapoosa, and North-east part of Talladega counties. From the best information at our command, we doubt not that there is an extensive destitution in a line of counties ranging East and West, dividing North and South Alabama. The cause which so unnaturally divides these integral parts of the same State, is a moral more than a physical one. Let missions be established in all these counties and the Baptists of Alabama will be one people. Your Board are anxious to accomplish this union as far as the means placed at their disposal will justify. The Fin. Sec. announced at the close of last year that a sufficient amount in cash and pledges had been secured to justify the appointment of a missionary to one of the Indian tribes. We are greatly indebted to the liberality of the brethren of the Liberty, Central, Shelby, and Unity Associations for these desirable results. The Board for Domestic and Indian Missions, Southern Baptist Convention at Marion, Ala., has appointed Bro. Isaac Reed of Cherokee county, late of Murfreesboro University, to that field, and have kindly consented that this Convention may adopt him as its missionary if desired. Bro. Reed has also expressed his desire to go out under the patronage of the Convention. It is certainly desirable to secure a missionary for that field as early as possible as our means will be useless until we do so. This whole matter is respectfully referred to the Convention for its action and direction, assuring your body of our earnest desire to carry out the wishes, and otherwise subserve the great interest involved. The best plan of managing our future operations has occupied the thoughts and prayers of your Board. All agree as to the desirableness of curtailing the expenses as far as this can be done consistent with promptness and efficiency. The Fin. Sec. is the only person connected with the affairs of the Board, who receives compensation.—It would be wholly unwise to make appointments under the mere probability that an amount would be sent to meet the demand; hence the Board does not see how the work can be carried on safely without some one to look out fields and men, correspond, purchase Bibles and otherwise attend to the interests of the Convention. By comparing the collections available for the last year with the number and ability of the Baptists in the bounds of our territory, no one, it is presumed, acquainted with the Scriptural rule of giving, will pretend that these collections reach one-tenth of our ability. The Baptists in this section can raise from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars without overreaching their means or transcending the claims of God's word.

But the Convention is new, and unestablished in the confidence of our brethren ; untried, and without that compactness which years of experience alone can give. The Board is inexperienced in the management of such an enterprise, when all these disadvantages are considered, we feel that enough has been accomplished to encourage to greater efforts and to lead us to earnest gratitude for the success God has given to efforts so feeble and means so limited.

In conclusion, your Board earnestly ask the prayerful attention of the Convention to the alarming destitution of so many families and neighborhoods in our beloved State. Recent inquiries justify us in the belief that thousands of our kindred, according to the flesh, have not a copy of the Bible, nor the regular ministry of the Word. A great deal of ministerial talent is lying unoccupied. The Board could not, if it had the means employ a much larger number of missionaries in these fields while the Indian tribes have peculiar claims upon us. Truly the harvest is great and the laborers are few. Let us pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers unto this harvest, and invest his people with a liberality that will supply the means to sustain them.

LEWIS PYLES,
WM. JOHNSON,
JOHN M. CROOK,

BENJAMIN MATTISON,
JOHN U. WHITESIDES,
GEORGE C. WHATLEY,

SAM'L K. BORDERS,
THOMAS GARRETT,
S. G. JENKINS.

JESSE A. COLLINS, FIN. SEC., 2D AND 3D SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Board of Managers of East Ala. Bap. Convention :

1st. One main object of this organization is to develope, combine and direct to right ends the material, intellectual and religious resources of the Baptists of this section of the State. In the discussion as to the propriety of appointing a Financial Secretary at the Semi-Annual Convention in November, 1857, it was contended and conceded that this object could not be promptly and efficiently accomplished without some one to represent the designs and plans of this enterprise.

To suppose that an object so in contact with our selfish nature, involving sacrifices of time and means, could be without patient and energetic labors, is to underrate the uniform teachings of all past history. In a denomination where no law but that imposed by Christ the Law-giver in Zion, is either claimed or allowed ; but where every one is left free to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures to his own conscience, and to act according to his own convictions of duty, it was hardly to be expected that any of general beneficence, however wisely projected or judiciously managed, would secure at once the hearty co-operation of the entire denomination. Conscientious men abandon old plans reluctantly and embrace new ones cautiously, while too many give themselves but little concern about any plans new or old, good or bad, contenting themselves with an ungenerous criticism or an unreasonable opposition to all plans.

2. This part of our State being so remote from the center of organizations hitherto relied on, to manage our general plan of beneficence, rendering the immediate co-operation of the great body of Baptists limited and irregular, not to say impracticable. And those conducted by our Associations being so inefficient in detail and so unproductive of large results but few feel as much interest in these labors of love as their interest, demands. These missions are so local in their scope, and so feeble in the developments that many thoughtful brethren have seriously doubted whether under

them we will be able to meet the claims of God and a perishing world.— If the results of missions were reduced to FACTS and FIGURES, it might turn out that ONE Association in East Alabama has possessed men and means during the last twenty years to have accomplished as much or more than all the Associations have done in the same time. If this be true WHAT A FEARFUL ACCOUNT WE MUST RENDER AT THE JUDGMENT. Hence the Convention has regarded it as its first mission to present such a plan as would commend itself to the judgment of good men, secure their confidence and call out their energies in GIVING THE LIGHT OF LIFE to the perishing, at home and abroad. But it is to be remembered that the Convention is new and untried, unestablished in the affections of many—inexperienced in the details of such undertakings while it meets the cold indifference and the opposition of others, still its prospects are brightening, its cords lengthening and its stakes strengthening, and if it is true friends adhere strictly to its original policy as expressed in its constitution, we may expect in due time to reap, if we faint not, the most abundant success.

3. Under all these circumstances—these lights and shades, I undertook at the solicitations of my brethren the arduous task of presenting the policy and plans of the Baptist Convention of East Alabama, conscious of the delicacy and difficulty of the work itself and of opposition so frequently urged against works of this sort. But with a firm persuasion of the ultimate co-operation of those who recognise their obligations to adopt the best mode of using their means and influence to promote the glory of God and the salvation of souls; and that under God's blessings the Convention, however despised and rejected in its infancy, would, under prudent councils, accomplish the objects of its organization, and this confidence has been strengthened at every step of its history.

4. With these general remarks I now proceed to give you the results of my labors. Owing to the newness of this enterprise as well as the general embarrassment in financial matters, under the advice of judicious brethren, I devoted the earlier part of my agency in visiting brethren and churches, presenting the work and the plans of its accomplishment, looking out new fields and men to occupy them, and in soliciting the counsel and co-operation of the friends of this enterprise, the results of these labors in part, were evinced in the large number of delegates at the Convention in May; and the deep interest manifested in our objects, I only reported the cash which came into my hands up to the Convention, reserving the pledges unpaid so as to present an unbroken report of all our resources in one general report.

After the Convention in May, up to the commencements of Associations, I was actively engaged in visiting churches and individuals—attending protracted meetings, soliciting funds, attending the meetings of the Board, and supplying our Missionaries with Bibles, and otherwise promoting the interest of the Convention.

Following my own inclination and the solicitations of brethren, I spent a large part of my time, perhaps too much, during the summer months in aiding in protracted meetings. At these meetings, in too many instances, the subject of Missions was lost sight of; in the usual interest felt on these occasions, as well as the unwillingness to many brethren, misjudging, I think, to have the subject of money even so much as mentioned in connection with these exercises. Besides all this, sharing in the conviction that no permanent good is ultimately secured which is obtained at the sacrifice of correct principle, and believing as I do, that no gift, however clear it may

be, is acceptable unless cheerfully made. The law in Zion is, Let him that is of a willing heart bring me an offering—"not grudgingly, nor of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver." And while it is true that the duty to give is plain, and persons frequently sin in refusing to give, still I have not regarded it my duty to *tease*, but in an earnest manner to present the claims of my agency, and leave each one, himself under the law to decide in the matter; and it may be mentioned in this connection, that a sentiment amounting to a prejudice exists against agents, thus reducing the collections, and then urging the smallness of these collections in support of the opposition, and that too, without proposing any plan by which these agencies could be dispensed with. From all these circumstances, I am free to confess that my collections have fallen greatly below what I desired; and what the number and wealth of the Baptists in East Alabama would lead us to expect. I know no better reason why these collections are no larger (abating for the imperfect manner in which I have conducted my agency, and God knows I mourn over these imperfections) than simply the brethren would not give any more, the remedy is in our pockets.

5. Since the commencements of our Associations in Sept., I employed the most of my time in visiting Associations not heretofore directly connected with our Convention, partly with a view to solicit their co-operation and partly seek aid in behalf of our project of supporting one or two Missionaries among some one of the Indian tribes. This object has long occupied my thoughts and prayers, and I, with unfeigned gratitude, bear cheerful testimony to liberal assistance received from the brethren of the Liberty, the Tuskegee, the Central, the Shelby and the Unity Associations.

At the Liberty Association I obtained near three hundred and the Central over five hundred dollars in five annual payments; the largest collections I have made in six years' agency, if I except the Pine Barren Association in 1856, and I rejoice to be able to say that an amount in cash and reliable pledges, has been obtained to justify the Board in requesting the Board for Domestic and Indians Missions, So. Bap. Convention at Marion to appoint one man to the Indians; and we have a prospect of securing one or two to go to those long neglected tribes and preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to the sons of Shem.

6. I also, with pleasure acknowledge the efficient aid rendered by Bro. Wm. C. Mynatt, one of our Missionaries, while I was in the South-eastern and Middle part of the State attending Associations he visited the Associations in the North-east part of the State and collected in life memberships and cash, and pledges over one thousand dollars, (for which I recommend the Board to allow him a reasonable compensation). Our Missionaries have been actively engaged in their work, and God has greatly blessed their labors in the conversion of souls, and in organizing churches, thousands through their sacrificing labors have heard the glorious gospel of the blessed God.

7. Since my re-appointment in November, I have done but little till the opening of spring, farther than attending the meetings of the Board, corresponding, collecting of pledges and preaching when the weather would admit; the loss of this time falls heavily on me as my obligations to the Board precludes the engagement in other pursuits. I make the sacrifice to avoid subjecting the Board to an expense which the small amount of collections would hardly justify. To estimate the results of these labors by the amount of *cash* which actually comes into my hands is to *underrate* the value of these services. A good deal goes directly into the hands of

the Treasurer, large sums, especially the Indian Mission funds, and life memberships remain unpaid, and the moral influences exerted upon the public-mind cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. *I regret the smallness of these results, but revolutions are not effected in a day.* I submit the cash and marked 2d and 3d semi-annual which are appended as part of this report.

J. A. COLLINS, Fin. Sec.

MAY 24, 1859.

East Ala. Bap. Convention

Second Semi-Annual Report of Jesse A. Collins,

Financial Secretary, up to December 1st, 1858.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION, CASH, PLEDGES AND GRANTS.

To the Board of Managers of East Alabama Bap. Convention:

| | |
|---|----------|
| To amount cash reported to May, exhibit G., | \$117 50 |
| By error, W. C. Witt, \$2; Sallie Stone, fifty cents, | 2 50 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| True amount to May 31st, 1858, | \$115 00 |
|--------------------------------|----------|

RABBIT TOWN CHURCH.—Rebecca Patterson ten cents; Martha Whitesides fifty cents; Malinda Andrews fifty cents; omitted, Rev. J. J. D. Renfroe two dols.; B. W. Mattison two dols.; Thos. K. Cook twenty-five cts; J. P. Fluker one dol.; Mrs. M. Pyles two dols.; Mrs. C. Boaz fifty cents. Total, 8 85

REFUGE CHURCH.—J. N. Sims fifty cts; B. M. Clinkscales one dol.; R. King one dol.; J. H. Keener one dol.; G. W. Macon one dollar. 4 50

MT. ZION CHURCH.—H. S. Darby fifty cts; W. C. Patterson one dol.; B. M. Fluker one dol.; Susan Fluker one dol.; Miss S. P. Henderson fifty cents; Wm. Griffin fifty cents. 4 50

COOSA VALLEY CHURCH.—Mrs. J. Willingham one dol.; Sarah Smith one dol.; Mrs. J. Stephens fifty cts.; Mrs. Wood fifty cts.; J. A. Collins, pledge at Mt. Zion \$2.50; S. Wallace five dols.; J. M. Ferguson one dol.; R. Lay one dol. Total, 12 50
Grants by Bible Board at Nashville, 60 00

| | |
|---|----------|
| Amount cash and grants to December 1st, 1858, | \$205 35 |
|---|----------|

| | |
|--|--------|
| Pledges unpaid, up to 1st Dec., 1859; at Mt. Zion church, nine dols.; at Jacksonville \$67; pledges since (unpaid) \$36. | 112 00 |
|--|--------|

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Grand total, | \$317 35 |
|--------------|----------|

REPORT TO DECEMBER 1ST, 1858.—HOME MISSIONS.

| | |
|--|----------|
| MAY 31.—To cash reported to the Convention exhibit G., | \$163 00 |
|--|----------|

J. Walker five dols.; T. K. Cook one dol.; Elias Teague fifty cts; J. U. Whitesides two dols.; J. Patterson twenty cts.; W. H. Grubbs fifteen cts; P. Watson ten cts; Wm. Dufrees fifty cts; Cash sixty cts; J. J. D. Renfroe two dols; B. W. Mattison two dols; E. M. Gray one dol; Jno. N. Sims 1.50c; N. Glover two dols.; C. Boaz one dol; H. S. Darby two dols; W. C. Patterson two dols; B. M. Fluker two dols; E. Smith fifty cts; C. Hamilton fifty cts; Lewis Harris one dol; S. Wallace ten dols; J. Ramsey five dols; C. Ray fifty cts; J. W. Ferguson two dols; J. Brewer one dol; Wm. Griffin fifty cents. 46 05

COOSA VALLEY CHURCH.—Dr. Wm. C. O'Neal five dols; J. J.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Willingham two dollars; J. Smith two dollars. | 9 00 |
| MT. PLEASANT CHURCH, ASHVILLE.—T. Hayden one dol; A. W. Montgomery fifty cts; Cash fifty cts; J. Montgomery one dol; J. W. Inzer one dol; Eliz. Montgomery fifty cts; Mrs. E. Whisenant fifty cts; D. Montgomery one dol; A. Byers 1.25c; D. L. Castleberry fifty cents; A. Penix fifty cents. | 8 25 |
| COLUMBIAN CHURCH.—Wm. M. Allen two dols; J. Allen one dol; N. B. Mardis one dol; S. Leeper five dols; H. J. Sawyer five dols; W. H. Pope three dols; W. M. Pledger one dol; J. Hawkins three dols; J. S. Leeper one dol; Dr. R. H. Mardis one dol; T. Leeper one dol; D. McCloud one dol; Dr. R. A. Mosely three dols; A. Renchant fifty cts; B. Harris fifty cents; W. Knight twenty cts, T. C. Carr one dol; J. W. Pitts one dol; H. Nabors ten cts; A. Sultsback one dol; G. W. Sanders fifty cts; A. W. Elliott one dol; E. A. Bentley fifty cts; S. W. Morgan one dollar. | 35 70 |
| MT. MORIAH CHURCH.—R. Hill five dols.; W. F. Goodson one dol; Jno. A. Goodson one dollar. | 7 00 |
| UNION CHURCH.—J. Stevens two dols; P. C. Johnson two dols; Wm. Bean two dols; Liberty Church fifty cts; R. O. Thomason ten cts; W. H. Thomason ten cts; Billey Thomas five cts; H. Moore five cents. | 11 80 |
| Amount cash, | 279 80 |
| Amt. by W. C. Mynatt at Cherokee Asso.—E. V. Poovey one dol; Isabella Parks thirty-five cts; N. Rirchie one dol; Mahala Laney fifty cts; Eliz. McGee twenty-five cts; H. B. Laney fifty cts; M. J. Milner fifty cents. | 4 00 |
| Public collection on Sabbath, | 23 50 |
| Amount sent by the Churches, | 16 45 |
| Amt. collected in 1857, B. and Miss. | 58 50 |
| Eld. G. W. Masters ten cts; L. Turner three dols; A. Collins five dols; Unity church, by S. Bankston four dols; Rev. J. B. Appleton's life membership five dols; J. Laurence five dollars. | 32 00 |
| Amt. at the Cherokee Association, | \$134 45 |
| Amt. on life memberships, Oak Bowery : W. B. Cothran five dols; G. Wood five dols; S. Wood five dols; W. W. Crook five dols; F. J. Crook five dols; B. Griffin five dols; L. L. Swink five dols; R. A. Ingram five dols; Mary Weaver five dols; Dr. A. Willingham five dols; B. E. Moody five dollars. | 55 00 |
| Mt. Zion church life membership : J. R. Green five dols; S. Kelley five dols; Margaret M. Crook five dols; V. L. Woodruff five dols; S. Crook five dols; F. Woodruff five dols; E. G. Morris five dollars. | 35 00 |
| SALEM CHURCH.—A. Elston five dols; J. Brewton five dols; Union church; Mrs. U. Davis, Pleasant Grove, five dollars. | 15 00 |
| Ten Islands' Association, by F. Woodruff, | 44 75 |
| Tallasahatchee Association, by W. Johnson, | 88 50 |
| Total paid by W. C. Mynatt, | \$372 70 |
| To which if we add the amt. paid to C. R. Cross, Treasurer, | 684 95 |
| We have the total, cash to December, 1858, | 1337 40 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Pledges, | 313 00 |
| At Ten Islands' Association, | 98 00 |
| Due on Life Membership, | 2015 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amt. in cash, pledges and Life Membership, | \$2426 00 |
| Up to December 1st, 1858, | \$3763 40 |

REPORT TO DECEMBER 1ST, 1858—INDIAN MISSIONS.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| To cash reported to the Convention, | 47 50 |
| J. J. D. Renfroe two dols; W. C. Patterson two dols; B. M. Fluker two dols; S. V. Smith two dols; G. C. Mattison five dollars; S. Wallace ten dollars. | 23 00 |
| LIBERTY ASSOCIATION: J. W. Williams five dols; W. C. Morgan five dols; C. Stone five dols; G. Shealey five dols; G. F. Hill five dols; J. F. Bledsoe five dols; Wade Hill \$5; T. D. Hart \$5. | 40 00 |
| CENTRAL ASSOCIATION: J. W. Suttle five dols; L. Marberry five dols; G. E. Brewer two dols; Mrs. Brewer one dol; Mrs. T. Calloway one dol; Cash one dol; J. Stevens one dol; A. Little one dol; M. Calhoun one dol; E. Pinson one dol; E. Hollyclaw one dol; S. Gregory one dol; M. E. Vicary one dol; Bright Skipper fifty cts; Cash fifty cts; J. Gregory fifty cts; R. White one dol; J. Walker one dol; J. Smith fifty cts, Ann Gregory one dol; E. Gregory one dol; Mrs. T. Timmerman one dol; Rev. Joel Nickols one dol; L. Calloway twenty-five cts; A. Calloway fifty cts; W. L. Boyce one dol; A. B. Gary two dols; J. Russell \$1; E. Reeves \$1; T. C. Russell left J. A. Pylant \$5; A. B. Calloway \$1. | 41 75 |
| SHELBY ASSOCIATION: John Inzer one dol; Jordan Jones one dol; John W. Walton one dol; Cash one dollar. | 4 00 |
| UNITY ASSO.: J. D. Williams, by J. Nunn jr, 1; J. H. Burns 1. | 2 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total, | \$158 25 |
| Canaan Association in the hands of C. R. Cross, Treasurer, | 33 30 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 191 55 |
| Pledges Indian Missions, individuals, | 41 75 |
| “ “ “ at Jacksonville, | 297 75 |
| “ “ “ Liberty Association subscription, | 265 00 |
| “ “ “ Central do. | 509 00 |
| “ “ “ Shelby do. | 75 00 |
| “ “ “ Unity do. | 75 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1263 50 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amount of cash and pledges to December 1st, 1858, | \$1421 75 |
| Cash in hand, C. R. Cross Treas'r, from Canaan Asso., | 33 30 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1455 05 |

AFRICAN MISSIONS.

RECAPITULATION.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------|----------|
| Cash from Canaan Asso., | | Bible distribution, cash, | \$145 35 |
| C. R. Cross, Treasurer, | \$4 15 | Pledges, | 112 00 |
| Pledges, | 3 00 | Grants, | 60 00 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | \$7 15 | | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Amt. cash, pledges, grants, \$317 35 | Treasurers, cash, \$4 15 |
| HOME MISSIONS. | Pledges, in hands J.A. Collins 3 00 |
| Cash, \$1337 40 | Sum total, \$5542 95 |
| Pledges unpaid, 411 00 | NOTE.—\$5 contributed by Edm'd |
| Due on Life Membership, 2015 00 | King at Shelby Association for bro. |
| Indian Missions, cash, 191 05 | Buckner's house, is taken from this |
| " " pledges, 1263 50 | report and added to the report follow- |
| AFRICAN MISSIONS. | ing. JESSE A. COLLINS, |
| In hands of C. R. Cross, | Fin. Sec. E. A. B. C. |

J. A. Collins, Fin. Sec'y, 3d Semi-Annual Report,

From 1st Dec., 1858, to 23d May, 1859.

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF EAST ALA. BAP. CONVENTION:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| BIBLE DISTRIBUTION. | UNION—L Stephens two | |
| FRIENDSHIP CH.—B. Mat- | dollars, W Lay five dols, | 7 00 |
| tison 2; Eliza J. McCler- | PLEAS'T GROVE—S Macon | 1 00 |
| kin fifty cts; E. D. Lew- | PLEAS'T GROVE, (Cherokee) | |
| is fifty cents. | cash by M Davis 2, J H | |
| \$3 60 | Morgan 2, by Eld. Van- | |
| COLD WATER CHURCH.—B. | divere 1, | 5 00 |
| Murphy fifty cents; S. | CANE CREEK—J F Nun- | |
| Heaton fifty cents. | nnelly 1, A Youngblood 1 | |
| 1 00 | A Nunnely 1, D Nun- | |
| ANTIOCH CH.—A. D. Wal- | nnelly 1, J J Baugh 1, M | |
| drop fifty cts; T G Mat- | Nelson 25c, S Nunnely | |
| tison, L. M., five dols; | 25c, M Howard 10c, J | |
| Emily Ellington fifty cts. | Montgomery fifty cents, | 6 10 |
| 6 00 | MT. ZION, (Tal'dga) G Hill | |
| BETHLEHEM—L Pyles, | 5, T Goodman 3, | 8 00 |
| 5 00 | COOSA VALLEY—J Bell 2, | |
| UNION—R M Stephens, | Perry Turner 3, | 5 00 |
| 50 | LIBERTY, (Hurricane) Bal- | |
| MT. ZION—Geo. Hill five | ance on pledge, | 8 00 |
| dols; Louisa Cox one dol. | NEW HOPEWELL—Public | |
| 6 00 | collection | 6 85 |
| 1 00 | MACEDONIA—J A Martin | |
| COOSA VALLEY—N Bell, | 1, T McGinnis, 25c, F S | |
| 50 | Posey 1, F Finney 1, J | |
| ALEXANDRIA—J P Wood, | Martin 1, H Davis 25c, | |
| 5 00 | W C Davis 25cs Jane | |
| MACEDONIA—J S Posey, | Martin fifty cents, Jane | |
| 5 00 | Martin fifty cts, M C Po- | |
| | sey 1, A B Kidd 1, J M | |
| Total, \$33 00 | Kidd 1, J Martin forty | |
| HOME MISSIONS. | cts, Grace Posey 1, Eliz- | |
| ANTIOCH CH—S G Jenkins | abeth Martin 1, | 11 15 |
| ten dols; Y B Jenkins | MONTEVALLO—R Wood, | 5 00 |
| two dols; A D Waldrop | PLEASANT HILL—Cash | 6 50 |
| two dols, E Ellington one | CENTRAL INSTITUTE—At | |
| dol, E J McClerkin \$1, | the Convention; Hon B | |
| 16 00 | Fitzpatrick ten dols, H | |
| COLD WATER—R Hughes | | |
| five dols, S Heaton fifty | | |
| cts, B Murphy two dols. | | |
| 7 50 | | |
| FRIENDSHIP—G F Matti- | | |
| son 5 dols, E D Lewis 1, | | |
| 6 00 | | |
| BETHLEHEM—W B Neely | | |
| 1, E A Aderhold 1, J | | |
| Walker fifty cts, J J Ken- | | |
| nedy 1, S H Beene 1, V | | |
| Neely one dollar, | | |
| 5 50 | | |

| | |
|---|-------|
| E Taliaferro 1, D Wallis 3, Dr S C Elliott 5, Mrs L Cox 1, M A Stout 2, Col H Long 2, N D Renfro 1, | 25 00 |
| CAREY ASSO., by J Motley | 9 20 |
| FT. WILLIAMS CH: By D Wallis, | 8 00 |
| FRIENDSHIP: By E D Lewis | 10 00 |
| ROCKFORD: By I W Suttle, | 10 00 |
| CONCORD: By J Stephens, | 5 15 |
| RABBIT TOWN: O Griffin, | 1 00 |
| Eld. T Calley 2, M Calley 5 | 7 00 |
| PLEAS'T GROVE: M Turner | 10 00 |
| BLUE EYE CH.: A Tuck 1 | |
| J E Spence 1, | 2 00 |

Total, \$191 95

INDIAN MISSIONS.

| | |
|--|----------|
| J U Whitesides 10 dols, P Ward 5, G Hill 5, Nancy Fancher 1, | 21 00 |
| UNITY ASSO.: Eld. A Andrews 10, Eld J H Ray 3, | 13 00 |
| FRIENDSHIP: B Mattison, | 10 00 |
| TALLASAHATCHEE ASSO'n: On pledges, S Whitesides 5, C Boles 2.50, E Ellington 5, | 12 50 |
| CENTRAL ASSO: On pledges C Gregory 3, W A Florence 1, J R Steely 1, | 5 00 |
| Life Memberships J W Jeter 5, R Edwards 5, P McKinney 10, W W Cross, 5, J A Pylant 5, S J Thomas 5, J W Suttle 5, P Stout 2, Mrs Stout 3, Mary A Stout 2 | 52 00 |
| J M Russell 5, | |
| MONTEVALLO: N Haggard | 5 00 |
| CONCORD: By J Stephens, | 5 15 |
| L Pyles, on pledge to B'd Dom. and Ind. Missions, | 20 00 |
| Ed. King, for Buckner's house, | 5 00 |
| J W Jeter, subscribed at Jacksonville, | 10 00 |
| | \$158 65 |

Collection at the Con. at Central Institute, J L M

Curry 5, D Wallis 5, G Hill 5, A C Baker 5, J. A Pylant 5, J Harrington 5, R Wood 5, J W Jeter 5, P McKinney 5, C Barnes 5, I Nichols 1, O Swindle 5; Mrs Matilda W Mason 5, Wm Autrey 1, cash 1.75, J M Russell 5, J D Renfro 1, Mrs C S Andrews 5, T J Russell 2, O W Shearer 1, A B Elliott 50c, T Edwards 50c, N Bozeman 5,

83 75

\$242 40

GENERAL LIFE MEMB'SHIP:

| | |
|---|--------|
| L Pyles 5, G B Whatley 5, Cynthia A Whatley 5, Mrs H Bush 5, D Draper 5, S K Borders, 1st and 2d installm'ts 10, J H Lowery, 5, J M Crook 5, R Wood 5, J M Daiby 5, G Hill 5, Mrs. Geo Hill 5, B Averitt 5, Mrs T Brock 5 J J D Renfro 2d and 3d installm'ts 10, S G Jenkins 5, D Wallis, 1st and 2d installm'ts, 10, H E Taliaferro 5, T G Mattison 5, | 110 00 |
| Pledges for Indian Missions | 19 50 |
| " " Home " | 301 75 |
| FRIENDSHIP CH.: Pledges for Home Missions | 50 00 |
| MACEDONIA CH.: Pledges | 10 00 |
| NOTE.—To purchase a lot for a Church-house at Centre, cash, | 15 00 |
| Pledges | 35 00 |
| To build said house | 500 00 |
| TALLASSEHATCHIE ASSOC'n: Balance due on pledges for Indian Missions | 77 50 |
| For Indian Missions, Edmund King pledges \$5 per annum during life; A. B. Garey \$2 | 7 00 |

Amount of pledges \$1015 75

JESSE A. COLLINS, Fin. Sec. E. A. B. C.

*JESSE A. COLLINS, Financial Secretary, in account with
the Board of Managers for the East Ala. Baptist Convention.*

| DR. | | CONTRA CR. | |
|---|-----------|--|-------------------------|
| 1859. May 24. To am't rec'd for Bible distribution up to 31st *, 1858, | \$115 00 | By Treasurer's receipt of No- vember 4th, 1858, | \$595 65 |
| To am't rec'd to 1st Dec. 1858. | 30 35 | " cash paid F. M. Law, Cor. Secretary, &c. | 58 08 |
| " " " " 24th May, 1859, | 33 00 | " cash paid Merrit Burns, De- pository Agent, | 14 28 |
| " cash rec'd from Missiona- ries for Bibles sold, | 58 83 | " charge on Bibles from Nashville to Gadsden, | 6 50 |
| " cash rec'd from C. R. Cross, treas'r, to purchase Bibles, | 25 00 | " cash pd on L. Pyles' pledge to Dom. and Indian Miss., | 40 00 |
| " am't rec'd for Home Mis- sions, reported 21st, 1858, (see Exhibit G.) | 163 00 | " cash pd R. Holman, Cor. Sec'y, for Edmund King's subs. for Buckner's house, | 5 00 |
| " cash up to 1st Dec. 1858, in 2d Semi-annual Report, | 116 75 | " L. Marberry's 1st install- ment of L. M., paid to Do- mestic Miss. Board, Marion, | 5 00 |
| " error in addition, | 1 00 | " T. C. Russells' subs. to In- dian Miss., Central Assoc. | 5 00 |
| " am't collected by William C. Mynatt, | 372 70 | " C. Gregory's do. do. " | 3 00 |
| " am't collected to May 24, '59, | 191 95 | " services as Financial Sec'y and Gen'l Agent, from 1st Nov. '57, to 1st Nov. '58, (abating loss of time) | 750 00 |
| " " rec'd for Indian Mis- sions up to 31st May, 1858, | 47 50 | Incidental expenses, | 8 00 |
| " am't rec'd up to 1st Dec. '58, | 110 75 | By services do. do. do. from 1st Nov. '58, to 24th May, '59, | 266 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ |
| " " " " 24th May, '59, | 242 40 | Incidental expenses, | 8 00 |
| " " " for general Life Membership, from 1st Dec. 1858, to 24th May, 1859, | 110 00 | | |
| Whole amount received, | \$1618 23 | | \$1765 17 $\frac{2}{3}$ |
| May 24. To draft on Treasu- rer, C. R. Cross, for balance due for services, | 146 94 | | |
| | \$1765 17 | | |

The undersigned, Special Committee to audit the Financial Secretary's Report, have examined the same, and submit the above as the result of their labor.

W. M. LINDSEY, }
J. A. PYLANT, } Special Committee.
W. C. BARNES, }

CENTRAL INSTITUTE, May 24th, 1859.

*Month omitted in manuscript.—Printer.

(APPENDIX D.)

The Committee to whom was referred the examination of the Circular Letter of Elder J. A. Collins, as published in the minutes of the last Coosa River Association, to report upon the propriety of its publication in Tract form, beg leave to state that we have examined the letter, and have had the subject under consideration, and we do most heartily give it as our opinion that, after making such changes and additions as the author in his judgment may think proper, the publication of the work in a more convenient and durable form, will supply a want now felt in our Churches.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Convention earnestly request Elder J. A. Collins to have the above named Circular Letter published in Tract form for general circulation.

J. J. D. RENFROE,
PLATT STOUT.

(APPENDIX E.)

Report of the Committee on Bible Distribution.

That existing institutions furnish ample facilities for the publication of the Bible. It would be unwise to invest benevolent contributions in the purchase of type and the necessary apparatus for printing Bibles, when they can be furnished to us at cheaper rates than could possibly be done by a new establishment. The practical question before us is to raise the means for the purchase and distribution of Bibles—no society or organization will supply or distribute for us. If the tender of such services was voluntarily made, they should not be accepted, as the means in our own limits are ample, and the grace of giving needs cultivation and enlargement. Liberality is a grace of God, in which we are commanded to grow, and the Apostle commanded the Churches of Macedonia, who, although in great trials of affliction and deep poverty abounded unto the riches of liberality. If those churches, willing beyond their power, entreated the reception of their gifts, how much more should we, prosperous and highly favored, entreat the privilege of ministering to those who are destitute. With proper efforts the means for purchasing Bibles can be raised, and then arises the question, of their distribution. Our missionaries who are to be appointed and who are now in the field, can combine colportage with their ministerial labors, and partially supply those who come within the sphere of their operations. The Board of Managers have a standing resolution requiring the Missionaries, as far as they can, to carry Bibles and hunt out and supply those who have them not; and this they were prompt to do, without any requirement from the appointing power. But there are still many localities and families not reached by our missionaries, and some special effort must be made to carry the bread of life to the very doors of all. Experience has demonstrated that this can be done most effectually by pious and active Colporteurs who will diligently travel over mountain and valley, search out those who need the Scriptures, supply as far as possible, and by prayers and exhortation and religious conversation, call attention to the personal needs of every child of man. Your Committee think that at least two Colporteurs in addition to the Missionaries are needed, and recommend the Board to take such steps as will secure such a desideratum.

Up to this time it is to be regretted that no fixed Bible policy has been adopted by this Convention. It is proper that some systematic action should

be had, combining certainty and permanence. Home destitution should be met, and the wants of foreign fields should have our sympathies and assistance. In the opinion of the Committee the Board of Managers should promptly put on foot some efficient plan for raising at least twelve hundred dollars, to be applied to the faithful distribution of the bread of life.

(APPENDIX F.)

C. R. CROSS, Treasurer, in account with East Ala. Baptist Convention.

| 1859. | DR. | 1858. | DISBURSEMENTS. | CR. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| <i>May 23.</i> To amount on hand, | | <i>May 24.</i> —By am't paid T. P. | | |
| May 24th, 1858 | \$484 15 | Gwin | \$45 00 | |
| To am't rec'd on individual | | " Am't pd Wm C. Mynatt . | 41 65 | |
| subscriptions made at Tal- | | " " " J. H. Lowery ... | 7 75 | |
| lassehatchie Association . | 15 00 | " " " R. H. Thackerson | 31 00 | |
| 1858, <i>Aug.</i> —Rec'd of F. M. | | " " " A. B. Smith..... | 33 30 | |
| Thomason, for Lebanon Ch. | 5 00 | " 25. " J. J. Bullington . | 20 00 | |
| <i>Nov. 4.</i> —Rec'd of E. Wood, | | <i>Sept. 7.</i> " J. J. Bullington . | 61 50 | |
| Treas'r of Canaan Asso'n, | | <i>Nov. 4.</i> " Wm. C. Mynatt. | 208 35 | |
| by H. Moore, for D. Miss., | | " " " T. P. Gwin..... | 102 75 | |
| \$33 30; for Indian Miss., | | " " " H. Moore..... | 131 00 | |
| \$33 30; for African, \$4 15 | 70 75 | " " " J. H. Lowery ... | 126 65 | |
| " Rec'd of A. J. Waldrop, by | | " " " A. B. Smith | 108 35 | |
| H. Moore, 2d installment | | " " " R. H. Thackerson | 100 00 | |
| on life membership, \$5; for | | " " " Rich'd Wood.... | 128 00 | |
| Bible cause, \$5 | 10 00 | <i>Feb. 7.</i> " Paid J. A. Collins, | | |
| " Rec'd of O. W. Wood, by | | Financial Secretary..... | 25 00 | |
| H. Moore, 1st installment | | | \$1170 30 | |
| on life membership | 5 00 | <i>May 20.</i> —Balance on hand, | 33 25 | |
| " Rec'd of Sam'l Pearson. by | | | | |
| H. Moore, for Bible cause | 1 00 | | | |
| " Rec'd of J. A. Collins, by | | | | |
| F. Secretary, by Wm. C. | | | | |
| Mynatt | 367 65 | | | |
| " Rec'd of J. H. Whitesides, | | | | |
| for Liberty Church | 17 00 | | | |
| " Rec'd of J. A. Collins, Fi- | | | | |
| nancial Secretary..... | 228 00 | | | |
| | \$1203 55 | | | \$1203 55 |

C. R. CROSS, Treasurer East Alabama Baptist Convention, DR.

| | | |
|---|---------|-------|
| 1859, May 20. Balance on hand | \$33 25 | |
| Rec'd of E. Wood, 3d inst, by T. Wood | 5 00 | 38 25 |
| Rec'd of J. Henderson, Treas'r Coosa River Assoc'n . | 25 00 | |
| Also, for Foreign Missions..... | 5 00 | |
| " " Indian Missions..... | 5 00 | 35 00 |
| Rec'd from J. L. M. Curry, for Lebanon Church | 12 00 | |
| Rec'd from George Hill, for Mount Zion Church | 5 00 | 17 00 |
| Rec'd from S. J. T. Whatley, for 1st installment, self, | 5 00 | |
| " " " " " Mary W. Whatley,, | 5 00 | |
| " " " " " Sarah A. " | 5 00 | |
| " " " " " Lindsey Weaver, | 5 00 | |
| " " " " " Scab. J. Whatley, | 5 00 | 25 00 |

| | | |
|--|-------|-----------------|
| Rec'd from J. W. Jeter, 1st installment | 5 00 | |
| " " J. L. M. Curry, 3d " | 5 00 | 10 00 |
| Rec'd from Committee on Credentials for Ann'l Mem'ps | 7 00 | |
| Public collection on Sabbath | 52 75 | 59 75 |
| May 23. D. R. Lide, on subscription to Dom. Miss.. | | 10 00 |
| | | <u>\$195 00</u> |

(APPENDIX G)

Report of the Committee on Finance.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Rec'd from Salem Church, Coosa River Asso. for Dom. Missions, | \$9 20 |
| " for Annual Membership, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " Life Membership, Allen Elston, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " Wm. M. Richie, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " Walter Towery, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " N. H. Dobbins, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " Gordon Mynatt, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| Rec'd of Tallasahatchee Church, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " John Borders, Life Membership, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " Central Asso. for Central African Miss. - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " " " Indian Missions, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " " " Domestic Missions, - - - - - | 2 50 |
| " " " " China Missions, - - - - - | 2 50 |
| " " Union Church " Conventional purposes, - - - - - | 12 30 |
| " " " " Domestic Missions, - - - - - | 4 95 |
| " " " " Foreign " - - - - - | 4 00 |
| " " W. C. Barnes, Life Membership, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " Wm. Reaves, Life Membership, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| " " Wetumpka Church, to purchase Bibles in the bounds of the Convention, - - - - - | 15 00 |
| " " Bro. W. W. Mason, Life Membership, 3d part, - - - - - | 5 00 |
| Columbiana Church, Shelby Asso., rec'd for Conven'al purposes, | 6 00 |
| | <u>\$121 45</u> |

We have also examined the Treasurer's Report and find it to be correct.

J. A. PYLANT, Cha'm.

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. This organization shall be known by the name of the East Alabama Baptist Convention ; and shall be composed of individual members of Baptist Churches, messengers from Baptist Associations and Churches, and from Bible and Missionary Societies, or other benevolent bodies composed of Baptist Churches in good standing.

ART. 2. The officers of this Convention shall be, a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, together with a Board of Managers consisting of nine, which shall be elected at each annual meeting from its own body, who shall hold their offices until the election of their successors.

ART. 3. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice Presidents shall preside over the deliberations of the body, and discharge the duties usually assigned to executive officers of deliberative bodies.

ART. 4. The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of this Convention, and as soon as practicable after the adjournment of each regular meeting of the body, shall attend to the printing and distribution of the minutes of the same, of which he shall preserve a file, and receive reasonable compensation for his services.

ART. 5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge of all moneys and other property contributed to the Convention, and to give receipts therefor ; to keep safely all the moneys and funds of the Convention, and all its evidences of property ; to keep fair and accurate accounts of all moneys received and expended ; to make payments and remittances according to directions of the Board of Managers ; to exhibit his books, accounts, vouchers and evidences of property, whenever required by the Board of Managers, or the Auditing Committee ; to make out an annual statement of receipts and payments, and of the condition of the funds and other property for the information of the Convention ; and to perform such other acts as may be necessary to the faithful discharge of the duties of his office, or may be required by the Board of Managers. In case of death or resignation, the Board of Managers may supply the vacancy until the next meeting of the Convention.

ART. 6. The Board of Managers—of whom five with any one of the officers shall constitute a quorum—shall hold their meetings at such times and places as they may appoint. The location of Missionaries, the collection and appropriation of funds, the appointment and compensation of Missionaries and others rendering services and the general superintendence of the work of the Convention, shall be intrusted to the Board of Managers, subject always to the limitations of the Charter and Constitution, and instructions and revision of the Convention. The Board of Managers shall present to the Convention, at its annual meeting, a report of their doings during the preceeding year—of the condition and prospects of every mission field and station ; of their plans for the enlargement or contraction of their operations, and they shall render such aid and encouragement as may be suitable to such individuals, churches or local associations as may prefer to support missionaries of their own appointment.

ART. 7. The President shall have power to call a meeting of the Board whenever circumstances, in his judgment, require the same.

ART. 8. The objects of this Convention shall be to encourage and promote by all Scriptural means the following causes, viz: Bible distribution, Missions, Foreign and Domestic, Ministerial Education, when satisfactory evidence is obtained that indigent ministers are called of God to this work. Sabbath Schools, religious periodicals, and book and tract distribution and the support of worn-out, indigent Baptist ministers.

ART. 9. This Convention may receive funds of such individuals, or churches, or associations, or benevolent bodies as may be disposed to aid the objects of the Convention by their contributions, and it shall faithfully apply all funds to the objects designed by the donors.

ART. 10. The Convention shall be at liberty to employ agents, whose duty shall be to visit churches and associations, make collections, solicit subscriptions, and counsel associations and churches to unite with this body. All contingent expenses shall be proportionably taken from the several funds sent up annually, to this body when the general fund shall be insufficient for that purpose.

ART. 11. The Convention shall have power to send delegates and corresponding messengers to any other Baptist religious bodies with which in its wisdom, it may wish to communicate.

ART. 12. The Convention shall hold its meetings at such times and places as it may from time to time appoint.

ART. 13. Any member of any Baptist church in good standing, may become a member of this Convention by the annual contribution of one dollar or more, a life member by the contribution of twenty-five dollars or more, in five annual installments, life director by the contribution of fifty dollars or more, in five annual installments. Any Baptist Association in good standing, may become a member upon the annual payment of ten dollars or more, and shall be entitled to ten delegates. Any Baptist church in good standing may become a member upon the payment of five dollars or more, and shall be entitled to five delegates, any auxiliary society composed of members of the Baptist church in good standing, may become a member upon the payment of five dollars or more, and shall be entitled to five delegates.

ART. 14. The funds of this Convention shall be raised by voluntary subscription, and not otherwise.

ART. 15. This Convention wholly disclaims any right to exercise any authority over any church or association, believing that every church is independent, and within its own sphere, is accountable to no body of men on earth.

ART. 16. This Constitution may be altered or amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at any annual meeting of the body, so as to keep and preserve inviolate the 14th Article.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The meetings of the Convention shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. No motion shall claim the attention of the President unless seconded; nor shall it be open for discussion or action, until formally announced by him.
3. When a motion has been made and regularly announced by the chair, no other motion shall be received, except to lay on the table, to postpone to a certain time, to postpone indefinitely, to commit or amend, which said motion shall have precedence in the order stated. But a motion for adjournment shall always be in order, except when a member is speaking, or the body engaged in voting.
4. When a member wishes to speak, he shall rise in his place and address the chair. If two or more shall rise at the same time, the President shall determine who has the floor; and no member shall speak more than twice on the same question, without the permission of the body.
5. All questions of Order shall be determined by the chair, subject to an appeal to the body.
6. All motions offered shall be submitted in writing, if the President or any member require it.



